NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, OFFICE H. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

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New York, Sunday, February 9, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

With the exception of a few reconnoitering ex-Cursions in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House, no movements have taken place in the Army of the

Affairs are progressing admirably in Tennessee and Kentucky. Our victories in these States are Likely to be followed up with the same activity on the part of our generals which achieved the suc Cosses at Fort Henry and Mill Spring.

We learn from Cincinnati that General Wilson's division left New Haven, Ky., on Thursday, and advanced to Green river, above Munfordsville. The advance of General Thomas, after dispersing the rabels at Mill Spring, had got as far south as Monticello, but owing to the condition of the roads could proceed no farther for the present. i The capture of the bridge on the Ohio and

Memphis Railroad by our troops, after the surren-Ber of Fort Henry, is in the main corroborated by A despatch received at headquarters from General Matteck yesterday, stating that our troops had Immediately proceeded up the river in the direction of the bridge, sixteen miles distant from Fort Henry, and demolished all the batteries of the rabels in their route. Recent intelligence from Cinciana " "ates that the rebel infantry at Fort Heavy bel abandoned in their flight thousands of shot gars and all their camp equipage and clothing. In pursuing the flying rebels Major McCullough, of the cavalry, captured six guns, and Col. John A. Logan got possession of eight guns and thirty-three prisoners. Gen. Grant, who is adwanning on Fort Donelson, had arrived at Dover in its immediate vicinity, yesterday.

By the arrival of the steamer Eastern State at Fortress Monroe on Friday from Hatteras, we have later intelligence of the Burnside expedi-Rion. The fleet left their anchorage at the aniet on Wednesday morning-the gunboats starting at sunrise and the ships and troops following soon after. Their destination was believed to be Roanoke Island. The fleet Is said to consist of eighty-four vessels. We give to-day some highly interesting accounts of the Ptate of affairs on board the fleet from our special correspondent.

A portion of General Butler's expedition, con sisting of the ships Ocean Pearl, Idaho and North America, with troops and stores on board, sailed from Boston vesterday for Ship Island.

Our news from the Southern journals is interest ing to-day. We have received the Norfolk Do-Book and the Richmond Examiner of the 5th inst. with other Southern papers. The Richmond Er-Ominer has an editorial growl at the hesitancy of European Powers in not recognizing the rebel con-Cederacy. It says :- "It must be confessed that foreign governments have shown a tame spirit In their treatment of the American war. They have allowed themselves to be defied by the Yankee government with an insolence and arrogance which could hardly have been expected in such haughty Powers." The writer then goes on to speak of the Elegal federal blockade of the Southern ports thus preventing the South from obtaining supplied bi arms, while the North is permitted to draw mited quantities from Europe. He says: the same supply of these munitions with Our enemy and we will engage in three months to change the whole aspect of the war: instead of standing on the defensive we should carry the war Into Africa."

. The same paper has a long article on the pro posed direct tax of our government. It thinks in this measure the North is about to be put to the Best. It says:-"It is a tax which the enemy cannot pay. The people would not if they could. The collection of it is a double impossibility."

The subject of enrolling free negroes into the thilltary service of Virginia came up in the House be Delegates in that State on the 4th inst. Vagious propositions were made as to the term of Berrice to be exected and the manner in which the barollment should be performed. In the course of the debate on this subject. Mr. Rives said-"If it were in his power, he would convert them all (free segroes) into slaves to-morrow."

There appears to be a division of opinion among She rebels in regard to the responsibility of their Befeut at Mill Spring. General Crittenden, the baief in that affair, is severely criticised by some of the rebel papers. The Nashville Patriot 'says :-" he was not only drunk but had been bought by federal gold." A corre-Pondent of the Memphis Avalanche write-Findeed, you can scarcely pass along the avoite

crowds upon the streets for Nashville has a goodly attendance on her streets at present-without hearing the commanding officer characterized as a 'drunkard.' 'notorious sot,' 'sold our brave soldiers for \$40,000,' 'death is too good for him. and more of a worse tenor."

At the last accounts he was, with his demoralized rebel soldiers, at Gainesboro', Tenn., one hundred miles from the late battle field of Mill Spring, and twenty miles south of the Tennessee border.

Major General Gideon J. Pillow has again as sumed his war "flxings," by withdrawing his resignation.

The rebels are erecting more fortifications near Norfolk. They advertise in the Norfolk Day Book for one handred laborers to work thereon. They are not particular whether the applicants are "freemen or slaves."

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS The ateamship Niagara, which left Liverpool on the 25th, and Queenstown on the 26th of January, is now fully due at Halifax on her voyage to Boston. The Niagara will bring European news two days later than that received by the Nova Scotian. The steamers after the Niagara, to be looked for at New York, are the Teutonia, from Southampton on the 29th, and the Etna, from Queenston on

the 30th ultimo. The Senate of our State Legislature was not in ession yesterday. The Assembly, however, held short session, during which favorable reports were made on the bills authorizing the lease of portions of the Battery for Staten Island ferry slips; neorporating the New York Universalist Convention and the Blind Mechanics' Association, and fo the extension of streets of this city to the bulkhead lines in the East and North rivers. The Com nittee of Ways and Means reported the Annual Ap propriation bill; also the bill to publish the official canvass in the State paper only. Notice was given of a bill for licensing ballast lighters in this port. The bill to close Manhattan square was sent back to the committee, for further consideration. A somewhat lively discussion was indulged in over a resolution to grant the use of the Assembly chamber for a politico-religious discourse by a reverend gentleman. The resolution was defeated, and the House adjourned to Monday evening.

We learn by the sloop-of-war Savannah that the revenue cutter Henrietta, Lieutenant Commanding Sennett, hence, arrived at Port Royal on the 27th ult.

Captain Betsworth of the schooner Addie E. Barnes, which arrived yesterday from St. Johns, Porto Rico, says that on the 2d instant, when in latitude 32 34, longitude 72 45, he heard heavy firing to the westward. At the time there were a ship, a bark and a schooner in sight. Sup posing one of them might be a privateer, Captain Betsworth hauled up on his course to get clear of them, when the schooner stood for him until he an her out of sight.

Among our telegraphic intelligence from Washington will be found the substance of an interesting letter, written by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Committee on Ways and Means, via licating the course of the Treasury Department relative to the Printing and engraving of bank

Some of the Canada papers say that the Americans, in carrying on the present war, must not fall ack upon English precedents as a justification for heir acts, because of the long time that has inter vened. The blocking up of the harbor of Savan nah, by the sinking of British vessels, which re main there to this day, was right in 1779; but for the Americans to do the same thing with their own vessels, in 1861, is barbarously wrong. In other words, they intimate that we must not do as England has done, but we must do as England dic

Thirty-seven of the Illinois regiments are commanded by democrats, and twenty-six by republi

We have received later advices from Utah; but the crowded state of our columns precludes our publishing our special correspondence to-day. Meetings are still being held for the purpose of obtaining State rights in the place of those appertaining to the position of a Territory, and Brigham Young is busily engaged in furthering that object.

The boys of Hartford have a "high old time" at coasting, either on sleds or skates, on their park. the solid crust on the snow sustaining them on its surface. They start from the brow of the hillnear the college, and their terminus is near the jail-a rather unpleasant place to bring up at, but a long slide. Large numbers of spectators daily witness this invigorating sport of the lads. The coasting ground of New York city is at the Central Park, but does not terminate, like that of Hartford, at the jail. It is well patronized by the boys. Judge McCunn yesterday denied the motion o

Mr. Blankman for a stay of proceedings in the case of Dr. Charles Cobel, indicted for producing an abortion, but only convicted of a misdemeanor. At the request of counsel, sentence was postponed for a few days. Patrick Kane, resident of the Sixth ward, pleaded guilty to an assault and battery pon officer Rierdan on election day. The Cit, Judge called for a certificate of character, where upon ex-Alderman Barry pronounced it good. He was fined ten dollars, and, not having so much 'change' about him, the ex-Alderman kindly stepped forward, and fearlessiv met the demands of he law. Thomas White, a genteel looking young n, who was indicted for the murder of Thomas Coglan, a waiter at the St. Nicholas Hotel, and who pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter in the third degree, was brought up for sentence. It will be remembered that Cogian was a volunteer in the Sixty-ninth regiment, and that while White was intoxicated he gave him a fatal stab with a knife. The City Judge addressed a few appropriate observations to the prisoner, remarking that he had deprived the community of a good citizen and had committed a great crime. It was not, how ever, he thought, so much the result of depravity as of excitement produced by liquor. The highest penalty the law allowed was given, which is it ment in the State prison for four years.

Accounts from the peach growing districts of New Jersey represent the prospect for a good crop next season as unusually flattering.

Captain Hyde, of the United States revenue cut er Tiger, to whom the press of this city are indebted for many favors, has been ordered to Boston for

The report of the New Jersey Pilot Commission. ers shows that during the month of January the New Jersey pilots brought sixty-eight vessels into the port of New York, and took sixty-three out Fifty-four vessels were boarded out of sight of land The sales of cotton resterday embraced 350 a 400 beles. lesing with firmness for middling uplands, at about 30 Nearly all the purchases were made by spin ners. The holders of breadstuffs generally demande prices above the views of purchasers for export, and pence transactions were moderate, and in most cases the easier. fater news by the Cutard steamer, ever common grades of State and Western flour we rather easier white good to choice brands were firm and in good request. Whese was firm especially for good to prime qualities, while inferio grades were heavy and irregular. Sales of all descripions were moderate. Corn was easier, and prices fa rored purchasers. Sales were fair at 65c, a 66s of or Jersey and Southern new yellow. Pork-The market way less notive. The sales embraced new meas at \$12 874 # \$13; \$19 12% # \$12 25 for old, with a lot of new mea deliverable in all April at \$13 25, and new prime was a 0 25 a \$9 50. Whiskey was firmer, with sales of 400 a 900 bbis, at 24 Mc. a 24 Mcs., and a small lot in good bar

The Vote on the Treasury Note Bill-

The splendid majority of thirty-four votes, by which the Treasury Note bill passed the House on Thursday last, is most gratifying to the conservative sentiment of the country. We have not doubted that the bill would pass; but so large a majority in a very full House was unexpected here can now be no question that the passage of this first measure of the financial programme of the government will be followed by equally decisive votes in favor of the Tax bill, the Bank Currency bill, the Loan bill, the Banking bill and other financial measures prepared or proposed by the government. We hope that all of them, and particularly the Tax bill, will be brought up for action immediately.

In the vote upon the Treasury Note bill we discern a new division of parties. It has been explicitly stated, and was well understood by the members of Congress, that a vote against this financial measure was a vote against the government itself. It was clearly apparent to the dullest comprehension that the war could not go on without money. Congress had been informed by Secretary Chase himself that the Treasury was completely empty. There was no other practicable way—there was no other way proposed—by which money could be so readily, so speedly and so safely raised as by this bill. It was expressly understood that after this bill relieved the pressing and immediate necessities of the government the Tax bill should follow to provide ample security for the payment and means for the redemption of these Treasury notes. From these facts no deduction is more simple and logical than that vote against this bill was a vote to cripple the government, to destroy our army and navy, to ruin the country and to aid the rebels. The Treasury was empty, and without money the wheels of government must stop; the Treasury was empty, and without money the war lacked its very sinews, and our armies were transformed into collections of thousands of dissatisfied, needy and mutinous government creditors; the Treasury was empty, and without money all our government manufactories must cease work, and thousands of laborers be left idle; the Treasury was empty, and without money the government was powerless, and must tie, bound hand and foot, and strangled into syncope by its pretended friends, at the mercy of Jeff. Davis and his rebel borde; the Treasury was empty, and the passage of this bill was the only feasible way to replenish it and avert these disasters. The country knew all this, and there is not the slightest doubt that Congress appreciated it. On the affirmative side of this vote, therefore, we find the representatives of the conservative, loval sentiment of the country. But whom, then, do we find upon the egative side?

We find voting against the bill singular and dangerous coalition most avowed secessionists and avowed abolitionists. Sprinkled among them are one or two men, like Erastus Corning, of New York, whom we are as surprised and sorry to see in such company as we are surprised and glad to see Thad. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, standing honestly by his country, and voting with the conservatives for the bill. Mr. Corn. ing is only the representative of the defunct Albany Regency, and his business firm fur nished the hardware bread and cheese which confiding Cummings sold to the government for army stores. He was a member, also, of the Peace Convention, and perhaps the scent of that ancient body clings to him still. But, passing Corning by as doubtful, we find seconsionism and abolitionism cheek by jowl in this negative vote on the bill. May, of Marylanda secessionist by his antecedents, his declarations and his policy-votes "nay," with Owen Lovejoy, of Illinois, an abolitionist of the blackest dve. Of course Vallandigham votes negatively, for his vote is as sure to go against the sun is to rise. With Vallandigham votes Richardson, of Illinois. Morrill. of Vermont, goes with Thomas, of Mary-Wisconsin, strikes hands land: Potter, of with Mallory, of Kentucky; and so on. through the whole list, open secessionists and violent abolitionists run in couples and work in teams against the government and the country, and in favor of the Southern confederacy. But from whom else could we expect such treasonable votes than from such advocates of treason in its two deadliest forms? This, then, is the result of those secret abolition and secret secession caucuses of which we have before informed our readers. This, then, is the unmasking of that battery against the Union which has been so long preparing.

It is well we know our friends now and our foes. It is well that we can estimate precisely the strength and the weakness of the treasons ble opposition in Congress. Under other circumstances it would hardly be a fit subject for congratulation that the conservatives are the most powerful, and that the vote upon this bill shows that the government can carry all its financial measures; for Heaven knows that, in a crisis like this, there should be no opposition at all, but that all should work harmoniously together for the salvation of the Union. But we wade in deep waters during these perilous times, and even so mournful a triumph is a thousand times better than a defeat. The large majority for the bill, therefore, will encourage the administration, the army, the navy and the country, and in two months time we shall have such a crushing grip upon this rebellion that no European interference or schemes of Northern rebels can save it from annihilation. Till then let us rejoice that the diabolical minority of Congress, like the fanatical elements they represent, are so weak, though so desperate; and let the people mark with their deepest contempt and loathing, at home or abroad, in private or political life, the em bryo Congressional traitors who voted in favor of Jeff. Davis, anarchy and disanjon, and against the Treasury Note bill.

A PROPERT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY .-- We see by the Toronto Leader that there is some idea giving Bull Run Russell a public dinner in that city. We are glad of it. It will felsify the augrateful proverb that "no man is a prophotin his own country." We learn further that the London Times man is not going back to England. His chapter of predictions on the war is incomplete, and he returns to Washington to resume them. This will be gratifying news to the comic papers. His vaticinations have been the only stock in trade they have had to live upon since Greeley took to

The Robel Stronghold of Columbus, on

the Mississippi River. We present our readers to-day, from several intelligent sources, a very important map of the rebel stronghold at Columbus, Kentucky, together with an interesting statement concerning that locality and the rebel army there from Mr Leonard Dentz, late a drill sergeant in that camp by compulsion, but now in this city, after a lucky escape from a rebel guardhouse and a military execution. From our map, and from the testimony of

Mr. Dantz, it will be seen that the rebels have been working like beavers since their first occupation of Columbus last summer to make it a regular Sebastopol. On the commanding bluffs which form the left bank of the river above and below the town for five or six miles they have erected a succession of heavy batte ries to sweep the river and the opposite flat shore; they have stretched across the stream several strong and massive chains, supporting numerous submarine batteries or torpedoes to blow up our gunboats; and they have below these chains several gunboats and the famous turtle or steam ram of the redoubtable Captain Hollins. So much for the river and the river front. Behind the shore defences is the rebel camp of forty, fifty or aixty thousand men, supported on its right by the wing of a river battery, and by a line of ride pits, on elevated ground, of nearly two miles long. In his rear General Polk has provided against a surprise by the construction of several powerful earthworks, and on his left flank be has three or four redoubts and batteries of a still more formidable character, and a line of rifle pits to protect the railroad which here comes in from Bowling Green. Altogether, it is probable that, in this extensive and elaborate system of defences, Columbus is sur counded by over one hundred pieces of artilery, mostly of heavy calibre, many rifled, and with three one hundred and twenty pounders in the most commanding position. The nature of the ground covered by these

works is another element of strength. They occupy a sort of terrace, elevated from twelve to seventy-five feet above the surrounding flat and swampy country. We may thus form an approximate idea of the natural and artificial strength of Columbus, and of the importance which the rebels attach to its continued occupation by their troops to the end of the war, if possible. We think, however, that, with all these vast and formidable and defensive preparations, they have only been shutting them selves up in a trap. Their army of forty or fifty thousand men, or more, is fed from day to day by the supplies which it receives from be low by way of the river, and from the interior of Tennessee and Kentucky by the Bowling Green Railroad. That road having been seized by our troops at the crossing of the Tennessee river, the rebel camp at Columbus is even now reduced to the river channel for the means of

We are satisfied, too, from the manner is which our gunboats stood up to their work in short range of the guns of Fort Henry, that those boats can snap the chains of the Mississippi, and run the gauntlet of the batteries at Columbus, and take a position below which will effectually blockade the river. This done three or four days will bring Columbus to a capitulation; for we do not suppose that, pushed to the uttermost, the rebel army there can longer subsist upon its provisions on hand The place is doomed, and with its fall the whole line of the Mississippi river will be opened to our gunboats; for upon this plea the journals of New Orleans are urging reinforcements to Columbus and additional batteries for its defence, forgetting that it can be cut off below and in the river from its supplies. and can thus be quickly starved into submis-

THE CORPORATION AND THE NEWSPAPERS .- In reply to a resolution of inquiry, the Comptroller informed the Common Council, on Thursday evening, that during the year 1861 the city had expended the sum of \$70,350 for Cor. poration advertising, and gave the following as he principal items of this nice little expendi-

Daily News	12,463
Express.	
	7,122
Evening Post.	5,484
	9,972
Total	46,660
Where the remainder of the seventy	thon.

sand dollars has gone it is impossible to sav: but we can form some idea of how it is wasted by an analysis of the items with which we are favored. The Daily Nees was a paper of little circulation and avowed secession sentiments, and died long before the close of the year 1861; yet we find it drawing some thousands of the public money. The Express named above is the moraing Express, which never had any circulation to speak of, and has long since deceased. The Commercial Advertiser and Evening Post are journals of very small circulation, and are seldom read except by their own contri. butors. Of the Transcript we never heard until this report of the Comptroller, and upon diligent inquiry we find it to be a paper which is given away, and it has, therefore, really and legally no circulation whatever.

Yet upon such papers as these, which alto gether, at their best times, did not circulate nore than ten thousand copies, nearly fifty thousand dollars were thrown away, and twenty thousand more are devoted to the sustenance of a parcel of weeklies, of doubtful mo rality and of hardly any circulation. Now, for less than half the money, the HERALD would have given the Corporation advertisements the wide publicity of its daily issue of one hundred thousand copies, and thus saved to the city an immense amount of money and trouble, and given the advertisements a real instead of a pretended publication. But the fact is that the Common Councilmen do not wish the public to see what they are about, and we could not do them a worse service than to publish—as we shall some day-a batch of their advertisement in the HERALD, where they will be known and read of all men. Therefore the Corporation printing is conceated in these petty papers, the city is swindled, and a few hangers on at the City Hall pocket seventy thousand dollars of the public funds.

But because Common Conneilmen "love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil," is that any reason why the public should endure this unscrupulous fraud? We think not; and if we are not very greatly mistaken developements soon to be made will justify us in our opinion, and rid the city forcampaigning and the "Little Villain" to moral- over of this incubus of immense outlays for bogus Corneration printing.

Van Wyck's Pamous Speech Upon Gov-

The anticipated speech of Representative Van Wyck, Chairman of the Congressional Select Committee on Government Contracts, was delivered in the House on Friday last, and is published in full in our news columns this morning. Our readers will find it a condensed, unanswerable, scathing exposure of some of the recent famous frauds upon the government; and whether as a terse statement of undeniable facts, or an eloquent summary of the results and conclusions of the investigations of the Select Committee on Contracts, it will attract attention and repay perusal

In this speech Mr. Van Wyck follows up the astounding developements of the committee's report; and in truth there is no department of the government which needs closer or more immediate attention, just at present, than that of army and navy contracts. Every day brings its new fraud and its new, unpunished criminal. Mr. Van Wyck rehearses instances of corruption. which, although scarcely a month old, seem trite and twice told, so greatly are they over shadowed by more recent discoveries of more atroclous swindlings. He tells how at the very outsel of this war, while the Seventh regiment was marching on to Washington, the contract frauds began by a swindle of \$32,000 in the purchase of two thousand head of cattle in Pennsylvania. He narrates, with minute details, the career of Confiding Cummings, of the World, and the facts of his purchases of army ale and porter, army hard bread and cheese army straw hats and linen pantaloons, and army herrings and country butter. He repeats the sad story of the charter of the Cataline, and shows how Cummings managed to purchase her private cargo with the government funds. The Pennsylvania horses, spavined, knock-kneed heavey, glandered, wind-galled and afflicted with every disease to which horseflesh is beir. are next trotted out, and the manner of their purchase and the style in which the government, in one case alone, was robbed of \$50,000 are exposed. The system of contract brokerage is then shown up, and \$90,000 of govern ment money is traced to the pockets of a relative of Secretary Welles, through agencies for ship purchases and tea table sales of condemned whalers. Secretary Welles defence of his contracts and contractors is then splendidly riddled; and, with a few trenchant references to Hall's repur chased carbines, the McKinstry frauds and army transportation swindles, Mr. Van Wyck concludes his expose, having traced t'e ramifications of official corruption from Cabinet officers to amateur volunteer purchasers of ships, muskets and army stores. This record is a most sad and gloomy one

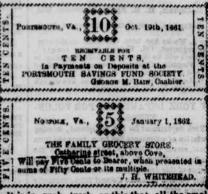
but, though it reveals much, it suggests more. The frauds exposed sink into insignificance alongside of the frauds hinted at but still concealed. What are the Cataline and the wheling ship swindles when contrasted with that enormous crime which perilled the lives of thronsands of brave sold ers and risked the success of a costly expedition by supplying vossels unfit. misrepresented, uscless and dangerous? Unserviceable horses may be fraudulently sold to the government; but the country loses only the money paid for the diseased animals, and our unmounted cavalry troopers may do service on foot; but if unseaworthy ships are loaded with soldiers, the nation loses lives more precious than gold, and has its best enterprises blasted and ruined. Confiding Cummings makes silly bargains for army ale and porter, and fritters money needlessly away; but what is his blame compared with that of those contractors who supply water casks flavored with oil, camphene and kerosene, subjecting our brave troops to the perils of thirst or the pauge of nauseous and unrefreshing draughts in the midst of a terrible storm, when drinking water was almost as vitally necessary as air? Wholesale robbery is bad criminality through the means of wholesale murder there is no word in any language strong enough to stigmatize its infamy as it deserves Rebels and traitors who meet our soldiers face to face in the open field, and stand the chances of shot and bayonet, or even bushwhacking villains, who from some secret covert assessi nate the defenders of the Union, are brave, respectable and worthy of high estimation when compared with these patriots who poison the water of our expeditions, and send troops off to sen in crazy ships, useful only as coffins for the brave fellows embarked upon them. Therefore, we say that the frauds expos-

ed are trivial in comparison to those yet undisclosed, and we should think that swindles upon our government from the beginning of the war up to this date, have amounted to the enormous sum of fifty millions of dollars. We must expect to be lectured upon this subject not only by the rebel journals, but by the press of aristocratic Europe; and certainly our friends and enemies could have no better text for their assaults upon "Lincoln's government" and democratic institutions. It may be some consolation to our readers to know, however, that rebels and Europeans, who fling stones at us, themselves live in houses of the very thinnest glass. Already the rebel journals are grumbling at the vast frauds connected with their civil and military administrations. In England, France. Russia, Austria and all other European kingdoms, governmental swindling is carried to a much greater excess than it has ever been, or will ever be, in this country. The only difference is that in Europe these matters are hushed up as long as possible, and when exposed are followed by the condign punishment of the swindlers. In this country, on the con, trary, we reveal all our corruption, but seldom punish its authors. Immediately after the close of the Crimean war immens army frauds were discovered in Ressia, and the offenders are now expiating their crimes amid the sternal snows of frigid Siberia. In England and France, whenever a rathole of this sort is discovered, an official plants bimself before it and screens it from public observation until the clamor about it has subsided, or the vermin is killed. Here every one cries "Rat! rat!" all hands join to unearth the gnawer at the Treasury, and, having discovered him, all allow him to escape.

Upon the whole we prefer the honest bue and cry of our own country to the reticence of Europears. But would it not be well for us to adopt the European ideas in regard to the punishment of government swindlers? There is not the slightest question but that if some of the frauds Mr. Van Wyck exposes had occurred in Europe the guilty parties would long since have been tried, convicted and incarcerated. Why should t not be so here. Indeed, if the rumors affoat-

which we are not yet at liberty to publish-in regard to swindles connected with our naval expeditions, should prove true, we have strong hopes that, before long, the matters will be in vestigated, and the perpetrators will be dis covered, brought to trial and deservedly con demned on charges of swindling and embe

THE CONFEDERATE CURRENCY.—We have received a couple of specimens of the brown paper shinplasters now ourrent in the so-called southern confederacy, and we give fac similes of them for the benefit of our readers:-



It is in such trush as this that all the suns change of the confederacy is made. No wo that we have constant reports of refusals to reenlist in the rebel army; for the soldiers are paid in such money as these shinplasters, and are in no hurry to do double service for such pay. With these specimens before us, we can better appreciate the patriotism of that rebel regiment of Mississippians who, it is said, tore up the notes handed to them, declaring that her did not fight for money; for such money they doubtless meant; and tearing it up was about the best thing they could do with it.

The opponents of our issue of Treasury notes contend that they will degrade our currency to the same level as that of the South. On the contrary, when the Tax bill is passed, and the government is thus enabled to pay promptly in specie the interest on its bonds, our national notes will have a firm specie basis, and be more reliable than those of any of our banks. Thus far there has been no noticeable deficiency of specie at the North; and, if there should be any, Post Office stamps would be a far better substitute for small change than these shinplasters.

JEFF. DAVIS AND HIS FLAG OF TRUCK.-It is stated that the flag of truce from Jeff. Davis the other day covered a notice and a warning to the government at Washington that if Gen. Halleck should proceed to the execution of any of the convicted rebel bridgeburners of Missouri, as he has promised, Jeff. Davis will retaliate by the hanging of Col. Corcoran and some others of our brave soldiers now held by the rebels as prisoners of war. One would suppose from this that the rebel leaders regard the killing bridgeburners as an outrageous act of berbarity; but their own acts are against them. Is East Tennessee they have applied the penalty of death by hanging to perhaps not less than of score of Union men, charged with or suspected of the crime of bridgebarning, and some of these victims they have hung up in chains, after the barbarous English fashion of two hundred years ago. Gen. Halleck, on the other handhas given a fair tried to the rebel bridgeburners of Missouri in his hands, according to the rules articles and laws of war and as these men have been found guilty, they are to be shot. The insolence, therefore, of Jeff. Davis, with

his threats of retaliation against regular prisoners of war, for the legal military punishment of spies and incendiaries, is without a shadow of justification. President Lincoln would have the same excuse for the hanging of some of the North Carolina rebel soldiers held as prisoners of war in Fort Warren, in retaliation for the summary and barbarous execution of Union men in East Tennessee, accused of bridgeburaing in order to break off the railroad communications of the rebel armies in that quarter. This threat of Jeff. Davis, however, is in keeping with the savage instructions of Cobb and Toombs to the women and children of Georgia to burn their own houses over their heads, and their goods and means of subsistence, and re treat into the swamps to perish, in order that our advancing armies may be "invited into-a desert more terrible than Sahara." When a gang of rebellious conspirators are driven to such extremities if becomes evident to all the world that their reign of presumption; folly and ferocity is drawing to an ignominious end

THE FRENCH PRINCES.-The recent visit of the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres to Niagara has given rise to the idea that they are about to quit this country. The fact of their going there at this season of the year, in stead of in summer, suggested the notion tha the visit was one that could not be delayed This impression is a mistaken one. The Princes went to Niagara simply because they wanted to see the Falls under the imposing aspect of winter. They have no present idea of quitting the country. Their position in the Army of the Potomac is one so gratifying to their feelings that they do not intend to abandon it until the war comes to a close. They are beloved by both their superiors and subordinates for their strict attention to their duties, their kind and courteous demeanor and their gallantry of bearing. No men in the army are more anxious to see active service or to flesh their swords in the cause of the Union. The Duc de Chartres distinguished himself during the Italian war by his personal bravery and modest, unassuming demonsor. Since the two brothers have been serving with the Army of the Potomac the same qualities have invariably distinguished their conduct. We are greatly mistaken if the sympathy of these young Princes with the cause of freedom, both here and abroad, does not one day restore them to the position forfeited by the weakness of their grandfather.

THE CONDITION OF THE STREETS .- We are sorry to see that the warning of the Mayor, to the effect that if the contractor failed in keeping the streem clean, according to the terms of his contract, the amount which would be otherwise due to him would not be paid, has produced no effect. The accumulations of ice and soow and slush in the public thoroughfares are fearful. and the attempts made at cleaning are more mockeries. We suggest that if Mr. Hackley is not able to act in accordance with his promises some new contract with some new party should be made immediately. Our streets in their present state are a disgrace to the city, and it is bigh time that the Corporation should waive all ceremony, and come to the point at once as regards the Hackley contract. In any other country such neglect of a specified stipulation would not be tolerated for a moment; and there is no